

**Clean Copy of Amended Claim**

Please cancel claims 25, 26 and 36.

Please amend claims 7, 8 and 30 as shown below:

C<sub>1</sub>  
7. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein said desired rhizobial strain is obtained by a method selected from the group consisting of selection for resistant variants produced by tissue culture, mutagenesis and genetic engineering.

8. (AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein said desired rhizobial strain is obtained by a method selected from the group consisting of selection for resistant variants produced by tissue culture, mutagenesis, and genetic engineering.

C<sub>2</sub>  
30. (AMENDED) The method of claim 27, wherein said herbicide of interest is selected from the group consisting of EPSPS inhibitors or glutamine synthetase inhibitors.